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**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please insert the enclosed Abstract page 77 into the specification.

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**NEW GDF-9 AND GDF-9B (BMP-15) SEQUENCES FOR ALTERING MAMMALIAN  
OVARIAN FUNCTION AND OVULATION RATE**

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides compositions and methods for modulating the ovulation rate and therefore fertility in female mammals including humans. The invention also relates to novel mutations in the GDF-9 and GDF-9B genes which are associated with changes in fertility.